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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Committee on the Development of Trade

Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade and Development Board

Advisory Services on Trade Documentation

TRADE DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION

FACILITATION ACTIVITIES OF THE IATA

1. The Trade Documents Guide (E/ECE/TRADE/86) includes in Section 7.1 an account of the purposes, origin, organization and activities of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). In addition to this general information on IATA, the following note, which has been received from the IATA Secretariat, gives more up-to-date information on IATA's facilitation activities.

IATA's Facilitation Activities - General

2. The IATA Facilitation Advisory Committee is composed of experts in the field of facilitation for international travel, trade, and transport by air. It meets about once every year to review IATA's overall facilitation activities and to determine IATA's facilitation policy which is set out in the IATA Facilitation Policy Manual. The IATA Facilitation Advisory Committee reports to the IATA Executive Committee through the Director General. Secretary of the IATA Facilitation Advisory Committee is Mr C.W.H. Vallance, Director, Facilitation, who is based in the Montreal office. The 17th meeting of the Facilitation Advisory Committee was held from 22 to 25 February in Beirut, Lebanon and was chaired by Mr S. Ball (Eastern Airlines), current Chairman of the Committee.

To coordinate facilitation work within his company each IATA member airline has a Facilitation Representative who is responsible for implementation of IATA's facilitation policy within his headquarters and field offices. Most Facilitation Representatives also have responsibility for a given country and liaise with their government on airline facilitation matters.

IATA's Trade Facilitation Activities

3. In order to deal with facilitation problems of air cargo, a Cargo Facilitation Sub-Committee was set up by the Facilitation Advisory Committee at its 15th meeting (Nairobi, November 1969). In three meetings this Sub-Committee has made an overall review of current air cargo facilitation problems and has produced a number of recommendations for promotion through the IATA Facilitation machinery and with inter-

national organizations. Secretary of the IATA Cargo Facilitation Sub-Committee is Mr R.W. Bonhoff, Assistant Director, Facilitation, who is based in the Geneva office of IATA. He has been named the IATA Correspondent for the ECE information exchange system on trade facilitation. Current chairman of the IATA Cargo Facilitation Sub-Committee is Mr T. McGaughey (The Flying Tiger Lines).

4. IATA maintains close relations and liaison with many international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, on facilitation matters generally and trade facilitation matters specifically. A recent example of IATA's involvement in international trade facilitation is a substantial financial contribution by IATA for the first stage of the development of a harmonized commodity description and coding system for international trade. IATA is represented on the Steering Group for the project by Mr E. Dreyfous (Air France), with Mr R. Moers (Lufthansa) as his alternate.

5. It should be noted that IATA now has two main offices; headquarters are in Montreal at 1155, Mansfield Street, the other main office is in Geneva (P O Box 315, CH-1215 Geneva 15 Airport).